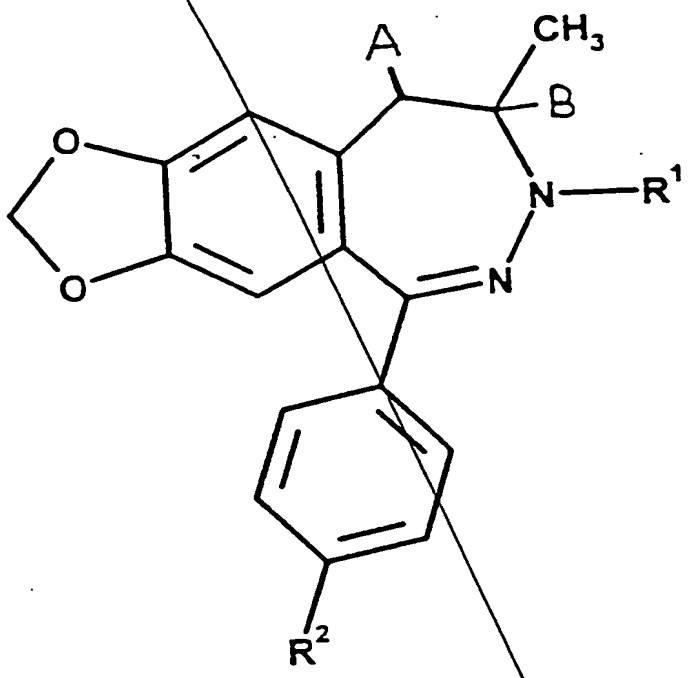
Claims:

1. A 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is

B' Cont

optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

B1 cont

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group which latter is optionally substituted, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is

B1 Cont

optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

2. A 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 1, wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a chloro atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two methyl group(s) or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom

as the heteroatom, and the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group, and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

3. A 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h/2,3/benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 2, wherein

R^3 and R^4 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group, an amino group, a dimethylaminophenyl group or a C_{1-2} alkyl group which latter is substituted by a phenyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally a further nitrogen atom or oxygen atom, an imidazolyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein

the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group,
n has a value of 0 or 1,
m has a value of 0 or 1,
R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,
A represents a hydrogen atom,
B means a hydrogen atom,
and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

4. A 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 3, wherein
R^3 represents a hydrogen atom,
R^4 stands for a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group or an amino group,
n has a value of 0,
m has a value of 0,
R^2 means an amino group,
A represents a hydrogen atom,
B means a hydrogen atom,
and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

5. A 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 1, wherein in formula I
A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,
R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein
R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a morpholino group, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2} alkoxy group(s), or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 2 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

6. A 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-

BX cont

benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 5, wherein

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^2 represents a nitro group or an amino group,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 means a chloro atom, a phenoxy group, or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guamyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by a phenyl group, a dimethoxyphenyl group or a morpholino group, or

R^7 and R^8 form with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or two identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a methoxyphenyl group, a fluorophenyl group, a benzyl group or a (methoxy-phenoxy)-(hydroxypropyl) group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

B1 cont

and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

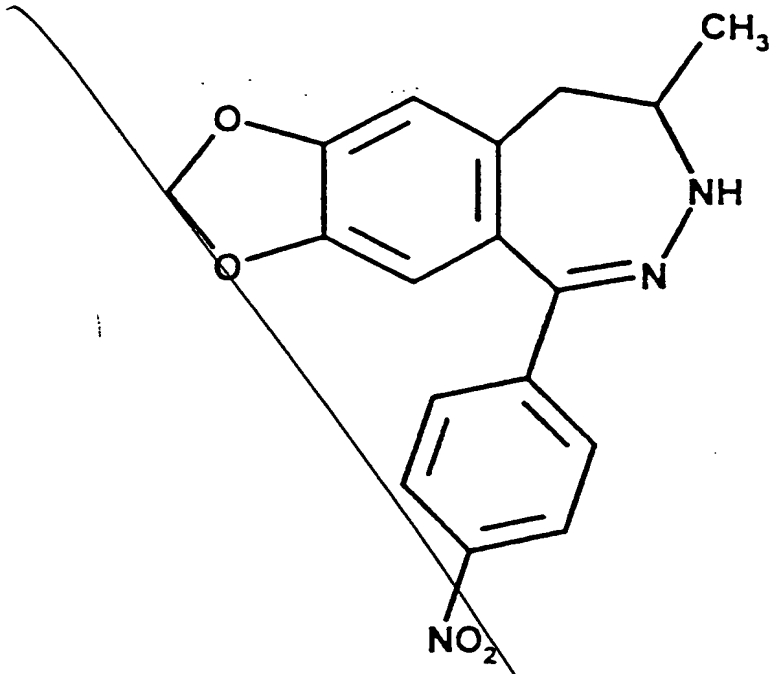
B' Cont

7. A 8-methyl-7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-benzodiazepine derivative as claimed in Claim 6, wherein
R^2 represents an amino group,
R^1, A and B are as defined in Claim 6,
and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof.

8. A process for the preparation of a 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined in Claim 1, and pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salts thereof, characterized in that

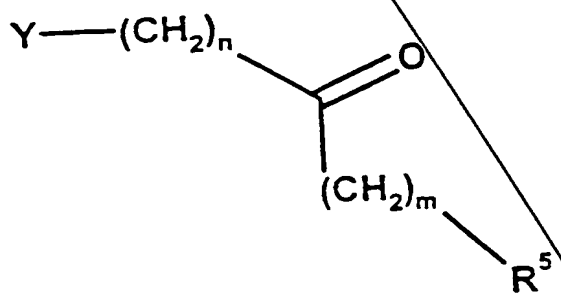
a) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for a halo atom or a pyridyl group, n has a value of 0, 1 or 2, m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H--1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine of the formula III

B1 Cont



III

is reacted with a reagent of the formula VI



VI

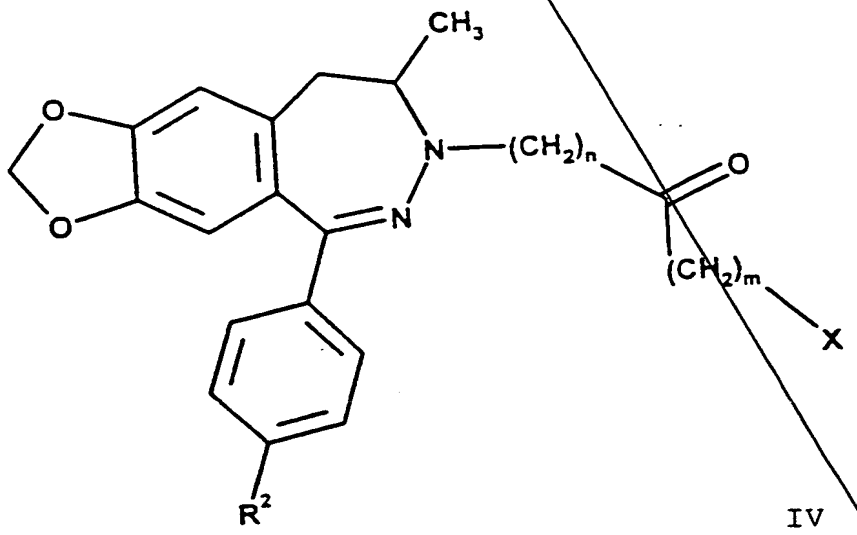
wherein Y represents a leaving group, R^5 is a halo atom or a pyridyl group; or

b) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for an imidazolyl group, n has a value of 0, m has a value of 0, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a

B1 Cont

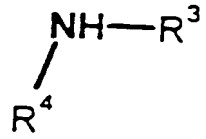
hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-benzodiazepine of the formula III is reacted with 1,1'-carbonyldiimidazole; or

c) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 represents a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein R stands for a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein R^3, R^4, n and m are as defined in connection with formula I, R^2 means a nitro group, A and B represent a hydrogen atom, the 7,8-dihydro-8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)--9H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine of the formula III is reacted with a reagent of the formula VI, wherein Y and R^5 represent, independently, a leaving group, n and m are as stated above, and the obtained benzodiazepine derivative of the formula IV



IV

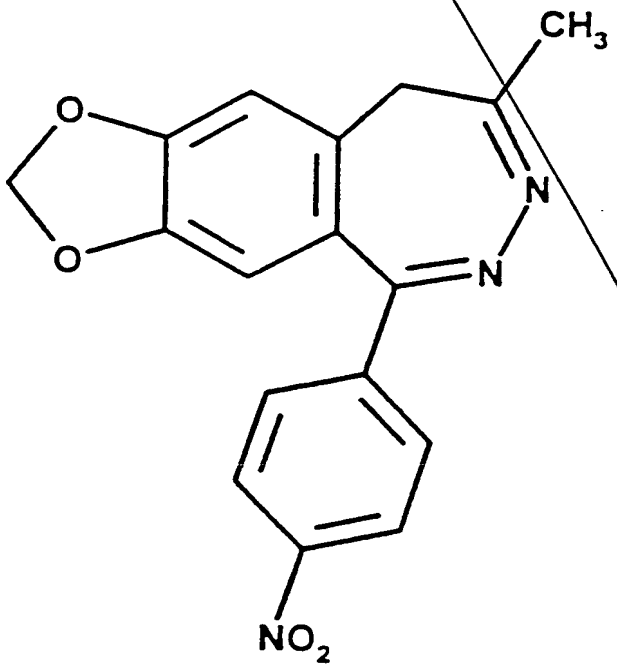
wherein X stands for a leaving group, n and m are as stated above, is reacted with an amine of the formula VII



VII

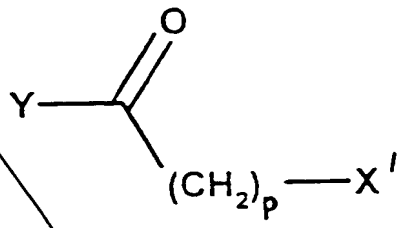
wherein R^3 and R^4 are as stated above; or

d) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein R^6 represents a halo atom, a phenoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, p has a value of 0, 1 or 2, A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 means a nitro group, the 8-methyl--5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/-benzodiazepine of the formula II



II

is reacted with an acylating agent of the formula IX

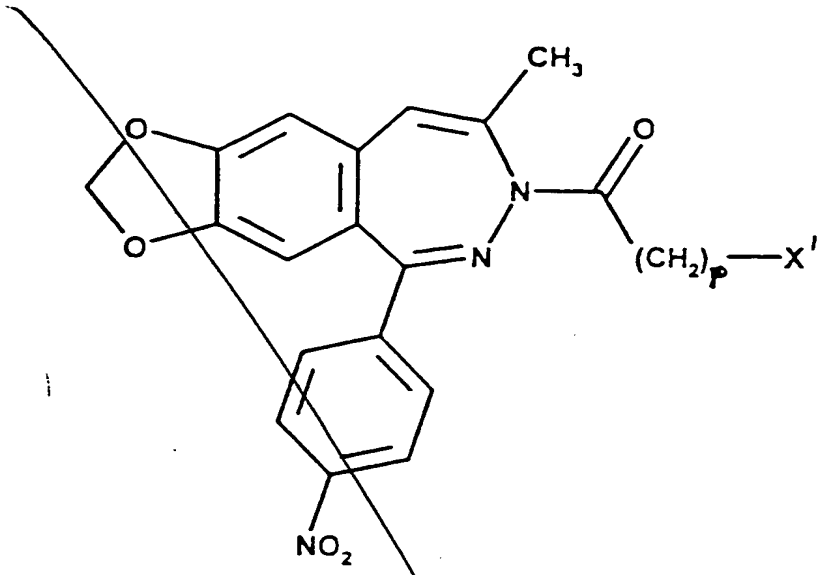


IX

wherein Y represents a leaving group, X' stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, p has a value of 0, 1 or 2;
or

e) for the preparation of a compound of the formula I, wherein R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein R^6 represents a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein R^7, R^8 and p are as defined in connection with the formula I, A forms together with B a valence bond, R^2 means a nitro group, the 8-methyl-5-(4-nitrophenyl)-9H-1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine of the formula II is reacted with an acylating agent of the formula IX, wherein each of Y and X' represents, independently, a leaving group, p is as stated above, and the obtained acylated compound of the formula VIII

B' Cont



VIII

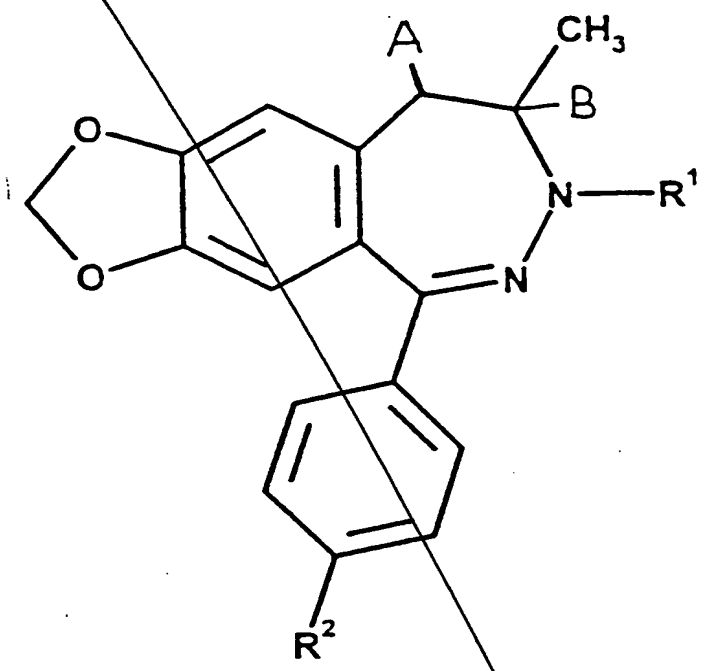
wherein X' and p are as defined above, is reacted with an amine of the formula HNR^7R^8, wherein R^7 and R^8 are as stated above;

and, if desired, an obtained compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents a nitro group, R^1, A and B are as defined in connection with the formula I, is transformed into a compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 stands for an amino group, by reduction;

and, if desired, an obtained compound of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents an amino group, R^1, A and B are as defined in connection with the formula I, is reacted with a C_{1-4} alkanecarboxylic acid or a reactive acylating derivative thereof;

and, if desired, an obtained base of the formula I is converted to a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt or liberated from the acid addition salt.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is

B1 cont

optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

B1 cont

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group which latter is optionally substituted, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is

optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient and one or more conventional carrier(s).

10. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 9 comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a chloro atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two methyl group(s) or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated

B1 cont

heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 methoxy groups, n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group, or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

11. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 10 comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

R^3 and R^4 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group, an amino group, a dimethylaminophenyl group or a C_{1-2} alkyl group which latter is substituted by a phenyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl

group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, together with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally a further nitrogen atom or oxygen atom, an imidazolyl, morpholino or piperazinyl group, wherein the piperazinyl group is substituted by a methoxyphenyl group,

n has a value of 0 or 1,

m has a value of 0 or 1,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

12. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 11 comprising a 1,3-dioxolo-/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

R^3 represents a hydrogen atom,

R^4 stands for a cyclopropyl group, a methoxy group or an amino group,

n has a value of 0,

m has a value of 0,

R^2 means an amino group,

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

13. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 9 comprising an 8-methyl--7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a morpholino group, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-2} alkoxy group(s), or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 2 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed

Claim 1 cont

B' cont

the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group or an amino group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

14. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 13 comprising an 8-methyl--7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9,

R^2 represents a nitro group or an amino group,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 means a chloro atom, a phenoxy group, or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guamyl group or a C_{1-3} alkyl group optionally substituted by a phenyl group, a dimethoxyphenyl group or a morpholino group, or

R^7 and R^8 form with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or two nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom,

B1 cont

and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or two identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a methoxyphenyl group, a fluorophenyl group, a benzyl group or a (methoxyphenoxyl)-(hydroxypropyl) group,

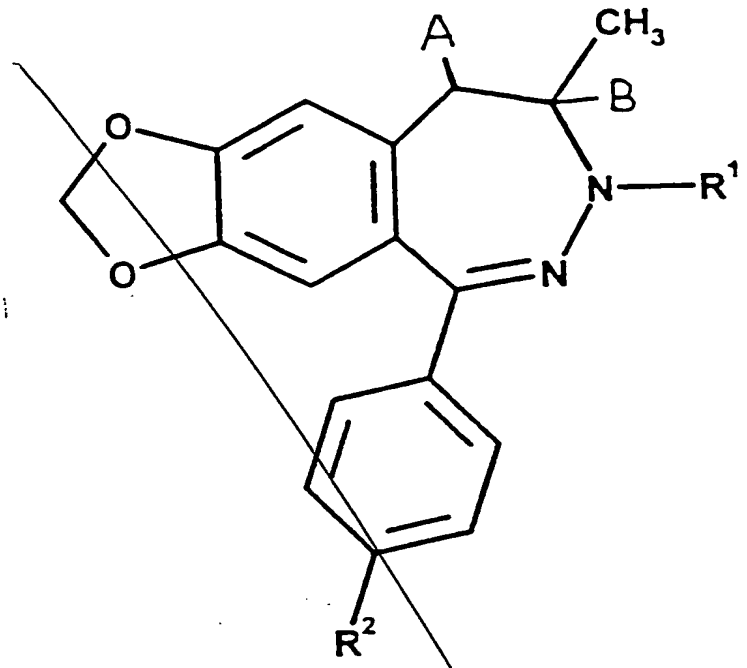
p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

15. A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 14 comprising an 8-methyl--7H-1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I, wherein R^2 represents an amino group, R^1, A and B are as defined in Claim 6, or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof as the active ingredient.

16. A method of treatment in which a patient suffering especially from epilepsy or a neurodegenerative disease or being in a state after stroke is treated with a non--toxic dose of a 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h//2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I

B' Cont



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and

B1 cont

comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group

B1 Cont

which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group which latter is optionally substituted, or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo

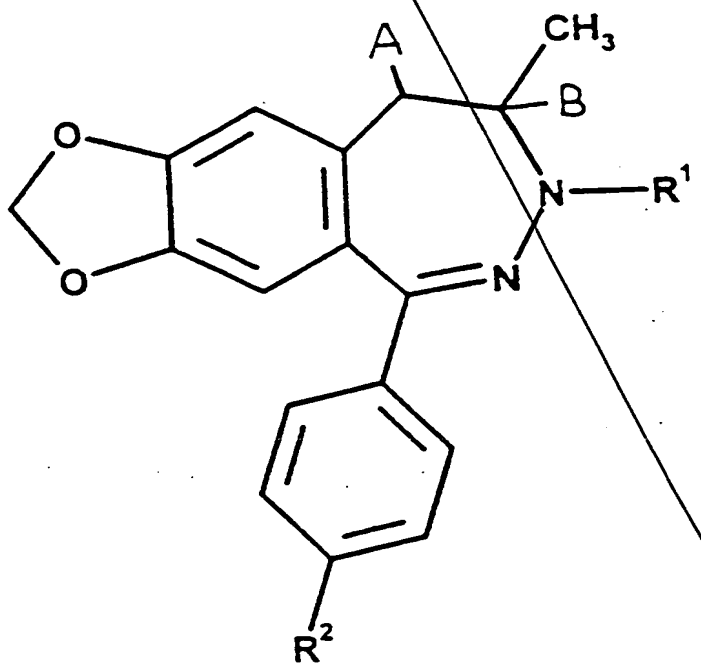
atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof.

17. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition suitable for the treatment of especially epilepsy, a neurodegenerative disease or a state after stroke, characterized in that a 1,3-dioxolo/4,5-h/-/2,3/benzodiazepine derivative of the formula I



I

wherein

A represents a hydrogen atom,

B means a hydrogen atom,

R^1 stands for a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_n-CO-(CH_2)_m-R$, wherein

R represents a halo atom, a pyridyl group or a group of the formula $-NR^3R^4$, wherein

R^3 and R^4 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, an amino group, a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl group(s), a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising 1 to 3 nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen atom and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by a phenyl group which latter is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituent(s), wherein the substituent consists of a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^3 and R^4 form, with the adjacent nitrogen atom and optionally with a further nitrogen atom or an oxygen atom, a saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members, being optionally substituted by a phenyl group that

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B' Cont

is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 substituents, wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group,

n has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

m has a value of 0, 1 or 2, or

A forms together with B a valence bond between the carbon atoms in positions 8 and 9, and in this case

R^1 represents a group of the formula $-CO-(CH_2)_p-R^6$, wherein

R^6 stands for a halo atom, a phenoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a group of the formula $-NR^7R^8$, wherein

R^7 and R^8 mean, independently, a hydrogen atom, a guanyl group, a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl group or a C_{1-4} alkyl group which latter is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a saturated heterocyclic group having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, or

R^7 and R^8 form together with the adjacent nitrogen atom an oxopyrrolidinyl group, a phthalimido group which latter is optionally substituted, or a saturated heterocyclic group

having 5 or 6 members and comprising one or more nitrogen atom(s) or a nitrogen and an oxygen atom as the heteroatom, and said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a hydroxy group, a phenyl group, a phenoxy group, a phenyl(C_{1-4} alkyl) group or a phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, wherein in case of the substituents listed the phenyl or phenoxy group is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 identical or different substituent(s), wherein the substituent is a halo atom or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and, in case of the phenoxy(C_{1-4} alkyl) group, the alkyl group is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 hydroxy group(s),

p has a value of 0, 1 or 2,

R^2 stands for a nitro group, an amino group or a (C_{1-4} alkanoyl)amino group,

or a pharmaceutically suitable acid addition salt thereof, together with one or more conventional carrier(s), is converted to a pharmaceutical composition.